

HIV AIDS CONFERENCE 2003

HIGHLIGHTS

This course was held from 3 through 7 November 2003 in San Antonio, Texas. The subject matter expertise for curriculum development was provided by staff from the Infectious Disease Department at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center at Lackland AFB, TX. Some of the notable speakers included Dr. David M. Tornberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Clinical and Program Policy, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Health Affairs; Mr. J. Okey, Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Global Issues, National Intelligence Council; Ms. Beth Baker, Deputy Director, Policy and Plans Division, Defense Secretary Assistance Agency and Dr. Ed Tramont, Director, Division of AIDS, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Course critiques collected afterwards rated the lecturers outstanding, with a mean score of 4.38 out of possible 5.

Overall, 21 countries were represented with a total of 58 participants. Among the lectures on leadership, prevention, resources and legal issues, the three that were rated the most highly were: HIV/AIDS: Viruses, Patients, Population, and Policy by Dr. Dolan, HIV in the US Military and Research in Resource Restricted Settings by Dr. Tramont, and Peacekeepers and HIV/AIDS by Ms. Roxanne Bazergan.

A poster session was held midway through the week where individual nations prepared posters that explained their respective HIV engagement program. Posters were presented in the main ballroom where participants walked from poster to poster and spoke with representatives of the country and were able to compare notes on successes and failures in their HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment engagement programs.

Small group exercises were conducted four of the five days with the ultimate goal of designing a viable HIV/AIDS engagement program for their nation. Each of the six exercise groups was given a fictitious country with a significant HIV/AIDS problem and was instructed to reduce the HIV/AIDS problem using a constrained budget. The groups then presented and defended their findings.

The final day of the course provided a wrap-up of notable quotes, events and messages from the past week to try and bring together an overall synthesis of some of the important messages which had been received.

Finally the participants of country delegations shared comments with the audience at large about issues regarding program implementation in their own nation.

The next HIV/AIDS Conference will be held in San Antonio, Texas in December 2004. The announcement containing all of the details for the next conference will be posted on this website in the not to distant future.